



# Federal Agency Partnerships

## *Federal Task Force on Environmental Education*

### Introduction

The Federal Task Force on Environmental Education facilitates communication and collaboration among federal agencies and departments who have common interests in supporting and implementing environmental education (EE) programs. The Task Force places emphasis on supporting joint activities that further the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) EE priorities and leverage both federal and non-federal dollars. Summaries of current projects are described below. Members of the Task Force include the U.S. Departments of Education, Interior, Agriculture, and Energy, as well as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the National Science Foundation. EPA serves as the chair of the Task Force. A complete list of current Task Force members is provided below.



### Summary of Current Activities

#### *Department of Agriculture, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension* Urban Environmental Education Project

Funding provides urban educators and their students in the District of Columbia with quality environmental education (EE) that is relevant to urban environments and minority audiences through collaboration with Project Learning Tree's *PLT in the City* and *GreenWorks* programs. Go to <http://www.plt.org/initiatives/inthecity.cfm> to learn more.

#### *Department of Agriculture, Graduate School*

##### President's Environmental Youth Awards

The program recognizes young people across America for projects that demonstrate their commitment to the environment. Youth in all 50 states and the U.S. territories can participate in the program. Go to <http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/awards.html> to learn more.

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***Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service***

Partners in Resource Education - Hands on the Land

Funding supports an innovative, multi-agency initiative which brings the educational, historical, cultural and environmental resources of our country's public lands into the nation's schools.

Go to <http://www.handsontheland.org> to learn more.

***Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration***

Water Resources Education Initiative Project

This funding is part of collaborative effort which allows the United States Geological Survey's award-winning Water Resources Education Initiative to target Spanish-speaking audiences throughout the U.S.

Go to <http://water.usgs.gov/outreach/OutReach.html> to learn more.

***Department of Energy, Sandia National Labs***

California Regional EE Coordinator Capacity Building

Funding provides the California Department of Education with funding to conduct strategic planning and financial development workshops for the Regional EE Coordinator Network.

Go to <http://www.creec.org/> to learn more.

***Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation***

Capacity Building in the Columbia River Basin

In cooperation with the University of Washington, this project builds on the existing networks, experiences, and perspectives of EE programs across the Columbia River Basin and across the country to establish region-wide systems of needs assessment, communication, professional development, and program delivery that will serve local level program providers and program users across the bio-region in an efficient and effective way.

***Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service***

Environmental Education Train-the-Trainer Workshops

Under this agreement, EPA and USFWS join forces to train a cadre of trainers who are able to effectively deliver workshops for education professionals on how to successfully use the EE Guidelines developed by the National Project for Excellence in EE. Go to <http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/nctc.html> to learn more.

***Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service***

Biodiversity Education Network

Funding provides support to the Biodiversity Education Network (BEN) to enhance biodiversity awareness and education through collaboration, networking, communication, and capacity building.

Go to <http://www.bioednet.org> to learn more.

***Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service***

Community Biodiversity Education Partnership Program

Managed in conjunction with World Wildlife Fund, this project builds on the needs identified by leading scientific, education, and environmental organizations about the importance of educating young people, educators, and citizens about biodiversity.

## Members of the Federal Task Force, February 2003



### **Larry Bilbrough**

NASA Education Division  
300 E Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20546  
Phone: (202) 358-1439  
Fax: (202) 358-3048  
larry.bilbrough@hp.nasa.gov

### **Joni Boone**

US Department of Energy (EM-13)  
1000 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20585  
Phone: (202) 586-7315  
Fax: (202) 586-7734  
joni.boone@em.doe.gov

### **Dave Campbell**

Director  
Instructional Materials Program  
Division of Elementary, Secondary  
and Informal Education,  
Instructional Materials Program  
National Science Foundation  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Room 885S  
Arlington, Virginia 22230  
Phone: (703) 292-8613  
Fax: (703) 292-9044  
campbell@nsf.gov

### **Gene Cope**

NOAA-National Ocean Service  
1305 East-West Highway  
Building 4, #3422  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
Phone: (301) 713-2619  
Fax: (301) 713-2619  
gene.cope@noaa.gov

### **Tony Fowler**

FICE Coordinator  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20202  
Phone: (202) 401-3673  
Fax: (202) 401-1971  
anthony\_fowler@ed.gov

### **Joyce Gross**

NOAA-Public Affairs  
14th and Constitution Ave., NW  
Room 6013  
Washington, DC 20230  
Phone: (202) 842-8360  
Fax: (202) 501-2953  
joyce.w.gross@noaa.gov

### **Denver James**

U.S. Forest Service  
Conservation Education  
Box 90090-6090  
Washington, DC 200090-6090  
Phone: (202) 205-1781  
Fax: (202) 205-0975  
djames@hq.fs.fed

### **Deborah McCrensky**

Education Coordinator  
Division of Refuges  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
4401 North Fairfax Drive,  
Room 870A  
Arlington, VA 22203  
Phone: (703) 358-2386  
Fax: (703) 358-1826  
deborah\_mccrensky@fws.gov

### **Lynne Murdock**

U.S. Department of Interior-Park  
Service  
1201 Eye Street, NW, 11th Floor  
Washington, DC 20005  
Phone: (202) 513-7139  
Fax: (202) 371-2131  
lynne\_murdock@nps.gov

### **Nancy New**

Education Coordinator  
Coastal America  
300 7th Street, SW Suite 680  
Washington, DC 20250-0599  
Phone: (202) 401-9923  
Fax: (202) 401-9821  
nancya.new@usda.gov

### **Mary Tisdale**

U.S. Department of Interior  
Office of EE and Volunteers  
Bureau of Land Management  
1949 C Street, NW (Suite 406 LS)  
Washington, DC 20240  
Phone: (202) 452-5163  
Fax: (202) 452-5199  
mtisdale@wo.blm.gov

### **Robert C. Worrest**

Director  
U.S. Global Change Research  
Information Office (GCRIO)  
400 Virginia Avenue SW, Suite 750  
Washington, DC 20024  
Phone: (202) 314-3822  
Fax: (202) 488-8679  
rworrest@usgcrp.gov

### **Chairman**

#### **Michael Baker**

Acting Director  
Office of Environmental Education  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
(MC 1704A)  
Washington DC 20460  
Phone: (202) 564-0446  
Fax: (202) 564-2754  
baker.michael@epa.gov

### **Coordinator**

#### **Drew Burnett**

Environmental Education Specialist  
Office of Environmental Education  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
(MC 1704A)  
Washington, DC 20460  
Phone: (202) 546-0488  
Fax: (202) 564-2754  
burnett.andrew@epa.gov



For additional information, visit the World Wide Web at:

<http://www.epa.gov/enviroed>

or contact Drew Burnett at:

(202) 564-0448

E-mail: [burnett.andrew@epa.gov](mailto:burnett.andrew@epa.gov)

